Amendments to the claims:

Please amend the claims and add the following new claims as follows:

1. (Currently Amended) A process for protecting at least one motor vehicle component against manipulation in a control device, which comprises at least one microcomputer and at least one memory module, said method comprising:

dividing a code necessary for operation of the control device into at least one master code~~, said master, code~~ which comprises information essential for operation of the control device, and at least one sub-code~~, said sub-code~~ which comprises additional information for operation of the control device,

storing at least the master code in the microcomputer and

causing the master code to monitor manipulation of the sub-code.

2. (Previously Presented) The process as claimed in claim 1, wherein said storing step comprises storing the master code in a read-protected area of the microcomputer which is writable only once.

3. (Previously Presented) The process as claimed in claim 1, wherein said storing step comprises storing the sub-code in a rewritable area of the microcomputer.

4. (Previously presented) The process as claimed in claim 1, wherein said storing step comprises storing the sub-code in a rewritable area of at least one external memory module.

5. (Previously Presented) A control device for a motor vehicle comprising:

at least one microcomputer;

at least one memory module;

a code which is necessary for operation of the control device, being divided into at least one master code which comprises information which is essential for operation of the control device, and at least one sub-code which comprises additional information for operation of the control device;

wherein at least the master code is stored in the microcomputer and contains a software function module for detection of manipulation within the sub-code.

6. (Previously Presented) The control device as claimed in claim 5, wherein the master code is stored in a read-protected area of the microcomputer which is writable only once.

7. (Previously Presented) The control device as claimed in claim 5, wherein the sub-code is stored in a rewritable area of the microcomputer.

8. (Previously Presented) The control device as claimed in claim 5, wherein the sub-code is stored in a rewritable area of at least one external memory module.

9. (Currently Amended) The control device as claimed in claim 5, wherein at least one part of the sub-code is stored encrypted in a rewritable area and the master code is used to generate a key for decryption.

10. (Previously presented) A device for operating a control device of a motor vehicle functional to prevent a manipulation of said control device comprising a microcomputer and at least one module wherein the code required to operate said control device is divided into a master code and a sub-code, said master code is stored in a first memory, said sub-code is stored in a second memory and said master code is functional to monitor the authenticity of said sub-code.

11. (Previously presented) The device according to claim 1 wherein said master code is stored in a read-provided area of said microcomputer, which is writable only once.

12. (Previously presented) The device according to claim 10 wherein sub-code is stored in a rewritten area of said microcomputer.

13. (Previously presented) The device according to claim 10 wherein said sub-code is stored in a rewritable area of at least one external memory module.

14. (Currently Amended) The device according to claim 10 wherein at least one part of said sub-code is stored encrypted in a ~~rewritten~~ rewritable area and said master code is operable in decrypting said sub-code.